

WHEN the average person sees a civilianized “Hummer” going down the road, he immediately thinks “Army,” despite the slick paint job and fancy interior. However, when the average person sees a Harley Davidson motorcycle, the connection with the Army just isn’t there, even though the Army has had a long association with the vehicle. In “War Bikes,” SFC Lisa Gregory chronicles the Army’s long-time involvement with the motorcycle while showing how the Army helped give rise to an American icon.

With Hispanics now comprising America’s largest minority per the last census, the Army has tailored its recruiting efforts accordingly. To see how An Army of One translates in Miami, be sure to check out SSG Alberto Betancourt’s “Yo Soy El Army.” You’ll see the Miami Recruiting Battalion in action through an

innovative, tailored approach to recruiting.

Finally, in “Winning Hearts and Minds” SGT W. Cullen James and SGT Vernell Hall showcase the 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion in Afghanistan. By helping the Afghan people rebuild their country after decades of war and oppression, these soldiers are truly making a difference in the lives of people — a difference that will echo for generations.

John E. Suttle
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Editor in Chief



Soldiers

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Mom's Magazine

I AM part of a family that currently boasts three active-duty soldiers. I get Soldiers every month, and after I read it I send it on to my mother. Reading the articles keeps her from worrying too much about what's happening in Iraq, and also helps her understand the Army itself.

She loved the map that was in the March issue, and she has it on the wall with little colored pins showing every place her sons have been.

Mom says that all her kids wear combat boots, and she often tells us how proud she is. Her pride stems not only from her love for us, but from the understanding and appreciation of the Army she's gained from your pages.

Once again, thank you, and may you have many, many more issues to come.

SGT Ardys J. Favaro
Giebelstadt, Germany

Soldiers for Students

IN April 2003 I was asked to participate in a career/hobby day at one of the schools in my community.

I immediately contacted your office and asked if you could provide some magazines for the students in the school. You were kind enough to send me enough magazines for all the students who attended my classes.

Soldiers magazine really assisted in making this a great day for me and the students in the school. Thank you again for your contribution. It was really appreciated — by all of us.

SSG Ray Purnell
St. Louis, Mo.

Iraq Coverage

THE March and April articles on the buildup for Operation Iraqi Freedom by Heike Hasenauer and Steve Harding and the June photo layout on the advance to Baghdad were great, and encouraged me about the role of the Army in Iraq.

The words and pictures assured me

that our soldiers are this nation's most important ambassadors.

CW3 Paul Kahler
Via e-mail

Medic and Child

I THINK it's shameful that you would run a picture of a nearly naked child on the cover of your magazine. The image on May's cover was simply too much.

Name withheld by request
via e-mail

You seem to be in a distinct minority — virtually all the comments we've received about the image of PFC Joseph P. Dwyer have been extremely positive. The fact that he was helping to save the child's life outweighs, for virtually everyone but you, the fact that in the rush to move the child to safety some of his clothes were left behind.

Hooah for PVT Murphy

IN reference to the cartoon in the upper right corner on page 41 of the June article "Through Murphy's Eyes," on behalf of a few thousand dads and granddads, I'd just like to say: "Thanks Murphy, we needed that."

SFC Carlton C. Spain (Ret.)
via e-mail

WOULD it be possible for Soldiers to run the PVT Murphy cartoon by SFC Mark Baker in every issue? I enjoy your publication, as do the soldiers in my unit, and we think it would make the magazine even more enjoyable if you included PVT Murphy with every issue.

SGT Thomas A. Murphy
via e-mail

AS much as we'd like to run PVT Murphy in every issue, space constraints make it impossible.

Brigade, Not Battalion

ON page 10 of the June issue you identified SGM Charles Smith as a member of the 308th Civil Affairs Battalion. I

just wanted to inform you that the unit is actually the 308th CA Brigade, from Homewood, Ill.

LTC H. David Pendleton
via e-mail

Army of One

I AM the S4 for the 95th Military Police Battalion in Mannheim, Germany. Soldiers throughout the unit really enjoy your "Army of One" Posters. We would like to have some additional ones for company bulletin boards. Is there a way we can get 10 copies of the first and second posters?

CPT Timothy Mahoney
via e-mail

Excellent Challenge

OUR company provides training and technical assistance to the National Guard Challenge program, and we also maintain the program's Web site. We feel that Beth Reece's May article "Youth Challenge" does an exceptional job of explaining the Challenge program to those who are not familiar with it and at the same time it boosts the morale of the Challenge staff.

I am writing to request permission to post the article on the Challenge site.

Kelly Belmonte,
via e-mail

WE also thought Beth did a fine job on the article, and would be happy for it to appear on the Challenge Web site.



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